



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Uganda Trip Report

30th June to 18th July 2009 (19 days)



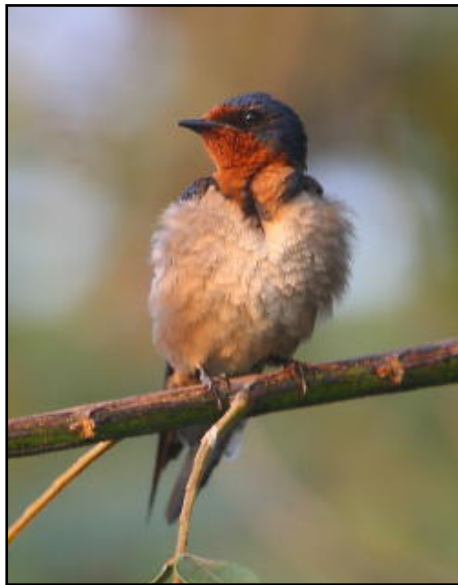
Trip Report Compiled by Tour Leader Keith Valentine

Top 10 birds:

1. Shoebill
2. Green-breasted Pitta
3. Bronze-winged Courser
4. Papyrus Gonolek
5. African Finfoot
6. Grey Parrot
7. Pennant-winged Nightjar
8. Red-faced Barbet
9. Regal Sunbird
10. Superb Sunbird

Tour Summary

East Africa, adorned with many fabulous national parks, spectacular scenery and a wealth of wildlife has and always will be one of the top birding and safari destinations in the world and Uganda the “Pearl of Africa” is right up there as arguably the best! This is the country where the papyrus swamps are home to the magnificent Shoebill. The savannas hold herds of Elephant and Buffalo while the forested regions are where Mountain Gorilla and Chimpanzee still continue to thrive. We enjoyed an amazing 524 species of birds together with 43 species of mammals as we soaked up the fantastic memories that were created on our adventures together.



Entebbe was the starting point for our tour and also acted as a good base from where to visit the Mabamba Swamps situated on the edge of Lake Victoria. This is one of a few areas in Uganda that offer an opportunity to locate the incredible Shoebill. We departed Entebbe early and negotiated the bumpy road for a few hours before reaching our final destination. Upon arrival it was obvious that there was a fair bit of rain around, needless to say we still jumped into our waiting boats with much energy, looking forward to our first big chance at locating the sought-after Shoebill. We weaved our way through the backwaters of the swamp lined with tall papyrus getting good views of Long-toed Lapwing, Winding Cisticola, African Marsh Harrier, White-winged Tern and a brief Lesser Jacana before the papyrus gave way to an immense open area of shorter grass and vegetation at the waters edge, perfect Shoebill habitat. Within minutes of scanning we had located our prehistoric ‘friend’. We then began to paddle slowly up to within a few meters of this truly amazing

bird taking in every inch of its plumage, bill and eye. A remarkable sighting of one of the world’s most prized species and what a way to kick-off the tour! Another excellent sighting from the boats was a pair of beautiful Papyrus Gonolek that jumped up to the top of the papyrus and sang in unison for us. Around the swamp edge we located an impressive breeding colony of the nomadic Weyns’s Weaver and the localized Orange Weaver, watched Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters hawking insects and scoped a lovely pair of Blue-headed Coucal. We also picked up a few good birds on our drive to and from the swamp with two particular stops being highly productive as we enjoyed views of African Emerald Cuckoo, Olive Bee-eater, Senegal Lapwing, African Pied Hornbill, Black-and-White Flycatcher, White-shouldered Black Tit and Superb Sunbird.

The following morning we left Entebbe and began our journey north to Masindi and past the Luwero Swamp where good views were enjoyed of Marsh Widowbird, White-crested Turaco, Golden-backed Weaver, Yellow-bellied Hyliota and Little Weaver. On nearing Masindi we made a stop and walked around in an area dominated by large fig trees. This stop produced excellent views at Bruce's Green Pigeon, Purple Glossy Starling, White-headed and Spot-flanked Barbet, Nubian Woodpecker and Piapiac.

Our day along the 'Royal Mile', Budongo Forest finally arrived and it was with much enthusiasm that we departed for the forest and the associated environs. The better part of the morning was spent in farmland and scrub at the edge of the forest. This particular habitat although altered by humans and used for subsistence agriculture provides for great birding and we soon found ourselves revelling with sightings of Black-bellied Firefinch, Black Bishop, Brown Twinspot, Brown-backed Scrub-Robin, a huge flock of Grey Parrot, Dark-capped Yellow Warbler, Brown Babbler, Magpie Mannikin, Cabanis's Bunting, Compact Weaver and the



rare Grey-headed Oliveback which was seen nest building. Later on in the morning we finally entered the forest and walked the famous 'Royal Mile' which produced a whole new range of bird species more typically associated with the forests of West Africa. Occasional flocks were located consisting of many canopy and mid storey species. We birded these flocks hard and chased up anything that gave its presence away by call. This combination proved highly successful as we began racking up the specialties of the area. In the canopy we found Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Black-capped Apalis, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, White-thighed Hornbill, delicate Chestnut-capped Flycatcher and Yellow-mantled Weaver, while the mid-storey produced Lemon-bellied Crombec, Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo, Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Blue-throated Roller, a good selection of woodpeckers that included Buff-spotted, Brown-eared and Yellow-crested, Shrike Flycatcher, Chestnut Wattle-eye, Spotted Greenbul, the shy Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat, Red-headed Bluebill and Crested Malimbe.

The following morning we were up early so as to be at our morning site, Kanyo Pabidi, in time to find the highly localized Puvél's Illadopsis. Kanyo Pabidi is an extension of the Budongo Forest bloc and is home to a number of good quality forest birds. On arrival we were quickly securing views of Puvél's and Brown Illadopsis and White-throated Greenbul before entering the primary forest. The better part of the morning was then spent walking the good network of trails which produced numerous highlights, none better than a group of the rare Nahan's Francolin who crossed the trail a number of times for an impressive showing. We enjoyed a close Afep Pigeon which was initially located when its deep booming call was heard. The beautiful Narina Trogon was also seen well in the forest canopy while other good species included Blue Malkoha and Yellow Longbill. After lunch we continued our drive into Murchison Falls National Park. The afternoon was spent birding the broad-leaved woodland, unfortunately favoured by annoying Tsetse Flies, en route to Murchison Falls. We enjoyed our time at the impressively powerful falls and also found some good birds in and around the area with the likes of Red-winged Grey Warbler, Rock Pratincole, striking Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Red-throated Bee-eater, White-crested Helmetshrike, Spotted Palm Thrush and Beautiful Sunbird being added to the ever growing list. Our night drive back to the lodge proved to be extremely successful as we had great views of the spectacular Pennant-winged Nightjar together with Long-tailed and Square-tailed Nightjars.



Having already had incredible views of Shoebill we opted to spend the entire day birding the woodlands and dry palm savanna and grasslands on the north bank of the Nile River. This proved to be a good move and we enjoyed many close sightings of bigger wildlife such as Kongoni, Uganda Kob, Oribi, Hippopotamus, Buffalo and Elephant. The birds were out in full force and the morning drive to the Nile River from our lodge gave us Heuglin's Francolin, Jacobin Cuckoo, Black-billed Barbet, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Green-backed Eremomela, Western Violet-backed Sunbird and Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver. Once having crossed the Nile the habitat changed significantly as did

the variety of birds on show and we were quickly adding Speckle-fronted Weaver, Kenya Sparrow and the spectacular Northern Carmine Bee-eater to the tally. Closer to the delta region where the Nile River makes an abrupt right angle turn to the north after entering Lake Albert we found a superbly elegant Saddle-billed Stork, Goliath Heron, a further pair of Shoebill, Martial Eagle, Black-headed Lapwing, Greater Painted Snipe, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater and White-browed Sparrow-Weaver while on our drive back to the lodge we also added a late group of Yellow-billed Shrike.

We began early on our drive back to Masindi through Murchison Falls National Park, up the Butiaba escarpment and via the Busingiro section of Budongo forest. The initial drive through the broadleaved woodland produced Grey-headed Bushshrike, Red-winged Warbler, Northern Puffback and Brown-rumped Bunting. On exiting the reserve we found a group of White-rumped Seed-eater together with Mourning Dove, Cardinal Quelea and Vitelline Masked Weaver. The Butiaba Escarpment was rather quiet and very hot with birds being difficult to come by. The afternoon however was a huge success as the Busingiro forest was a hive of general activity and we enjoyed excellent scope views of the extremely localized Ituri Batis. Other good species included Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, Western Oriole, Western Nicator and Fraser's Rufous Thrush and just at the last possible moment a gorgeous African Dwarf Kingfisher,

A long drive waited for us the following day as we made our way to Kibale National Park, famous for its large population of Chimpanzees. A few short stops along the drive produced brief Red-headed Lovebird, Fawn-breasted Waxbill, Ross's Turaco and Green-headed Sunbird. Nearing Kibale National Park we made a productive stop at the high area of the reserve known as Sebitole. Here we located the major targets, Joyful Greenbul and Lowland Masked Apalis together with a whole selection of top new birds such as Grey-throated, Yellow-spotted and Hairy-breasted Barbet, Honeyguide Greenbul, White-chinned Prinia, Purple-headed Starling and Brown-capped Weaver. We were also fortunate to bump into a flock of birds that were mobbing a snake that they had located. In attendance were Luhder's Bushshrike, Red-tailed Bristlebill, Olive-green Cameroptera and Green Crombec.

Kibale National Park produced a few megas over the day and a half that we spent birding in the area. Top of the list was undoubtedly the amazing views that we enjoyed one morning of the rare Green-breasted Pitta in full display while others competing for top honours included Shining-blue Kingfisher, Black Bee-eater and the rare White-naped Pigeon. Other excellent species that we managed to locate included Crested Guinea fowl, White-spotted Flufftail, Cassin's Honeybird, Speckle-breasted Woodpecker, Scaly-breasted Illadopsis, Cassin's Flycatcher and Mountain Wagtail.

Queen Elizabeth National Park was next on the agenda however extremely dry and dusty conditions were waiting for us here and much of the usually tall and seasonally wet grasslands were burnt to a crisp. We still managed to locate a number of really special birds although a few species were definitely missed on account of the dry conditions. On entering the park we located Black Coucal, Crimson-rumped Waxbill and a close White-headed Vulture. The following day we explored the

Kasenyi area in the morning adding Lappet-faced Vulture, Black-bellied Bustard, Kittlitz's Plover, Red-capped Lark and Grey-capped Warbler. Our afternoon boat trip down the Kazinga Channel provided excellent close views of many Hippo, Buffalo and Elephant together with fair concentrations of waterbirds that included many species of heron, egret, pelican and cormorant, African Spoonbill, Water Thick-knee and Collared Pratincole. An afternoon game drive ended the day on a high note with excellent looks at Ruppell's Vulture, African Crake, African Cuckoo, Black-lored Babbler, Verreaux's Eagle Owl and Slender-tailed Nightjar. We also visited the Ishasha section of the national park while continuing on our drive to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park adding Peregrine Falcon, Common Scimitarbill, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Double-toothed Barbet, male Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike and excellent Black-chinned Quailfinch.

We arrived in Buhoma at the edge of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in the late afternoon with just enough time to add a couple of species to the list, these included the fancy White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, Black-throated Apalis and Bronzy Sunbird. We were extremely excited to be entering into the Bwindi forest the following day with a chance at our first Albertine Rift Endemics and many other highland forest specials. Over the next two days we birded this fabulous forest and encountered many superb birds with the likes of Neumann's Warbler, Red-throated Alethe, Blue-headed Sunbird and Grey-chested Babbler taking top spots. In the midst of great birding we also had to deal with a completely crazy park guide who literally started seeing evil spirits in the forest and ordered us to march out from our position at least 5 km inside the forest as according to him it was extremely 'unsafe' to be where we were. Unbelievable! The birdlist however compiled over our two day stay makes for some reading. Cassin's Hawk Eagle, Black-billed Turaco, Scarce Swift, gorgeous Bar-tailed Trogon, family groups of White-headed Woodhoopoe, Willcock's Honeyguide, Green-backed, Elliot's and Tullberg's Woodpecker, Bocage's Bushshrike, Pink-footed Puffback, Mountain Sooty Boubou, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Mountain Oriole, lively Dusky Tit, Red-faced Woodland Warbler, noisy Black-faced Prinia, Grey Apalis, striking Black-faced Rufous Warbler, White-browed Crombec, Mountain Illadopsis, Stuhlmann's and Narrow-tailed Starling, White-tailed Rufous Thrush, Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher, Equatorial Akalat, White-bellied and Grey-winged Robin-Chat, Grey-headed Sunbird, Black-billed Weaver and Thick-billed Seed-eater were all enjoyed.



The upper region of Bwindi known as the Ruhizha section was next in line for us. This area is well known as the best locality for numerous Albertine Rift Endemics and many other special species. What greeted us however were not the typical conditions that one would expect, again dry and incredibly dusty roads were unfortunately the order of the day. Not quite classic rainforest conditions! Despite the climate going against us we still managed to pile up a bunch of cracking birds with Regal Sunbird, Stripe-breasted Tit, Black Sparrowhawk, African Hill Babbler, Ruwenzori Batis, close Grauer's Warbler, Ruwenzori, Chestnut-throated and Mountain Masked Apalis and Strange Weaver all being found close to our accommodations. Further toward the bamboo zone we located the scarce Purple-breasted Sunbird, shy Dusky Crimsonwing, Dusky Twin-spot, incredible Archer's Ground Robin, Mountain Buzzard, Western Tinkerbird, Mountain Yellow Warbler, Slender-billed Starling and Black-headed Waxbill. Tony and I then decided one afternoon after lunch that we would walk down to Mabwindi Swamp (something that takes most people an entire day to accomplish). What a spur of the moment decision that turned out to be as after just a few kilometres down the trail we bumped straight into a huge Silverback sitting right in the middle of the path. What a stroke of luck, an incredible creature to come face to face with and a memory that will last with us forever. He was going nowhere

and so with a fair bit of caution we made a wide arc through the forest to get around him and continue on down to the swamp. On arrival we had a blast of new birds with Waller's Starling, Carruthers's Cisticola and Grauer's Swamp Warbler all being added in quick succession before it was time to leave for camp. What an adventure!



Our journey then took us to Lake Mburo National Park, a typical African reserve conserving a vast area of acacia savanna, papyrus reedbeds and the associated lake. Here we enjoyed the excellent cuisine put on by a superb chef, meandered by vehicle on the large network of roads in search of numerous target birds and a good variety of game and set out one morning for a boat excursion on Lake Mburo. Our boat trip produced an unprecedented number of African Finfoot, seven birds in total, while others included Black-crowned Night-Heron and Greater Swamp Warbler. Our game drives produced a bounty of desirable species including Coqui Francolin, Red-faced Barbet, Long-tailed Cisticola, the scarce Brown-chested Lapwing, incredible Bronze-winged Courser, Bare-faced

Go-away-bird, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Black-collared Barbet, Lesser Honeyguide, Golden-tailed Woodpecker, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Brubru, White-winged Black Tit, Grey Penduline Tit, Red-faced Crombec and Red-headed Weaver.

Our final destination was Mabira Forest, a small forested island situated near the source of the Nile, Jinja. The birding at Mabira was rather slow in comparison to all the other sites that we had visited on the tour and the traffic through the forest seemingly endless. We did however still manage a few good birds in the form of Yellow-billed Barbet, Toro Olive Greenbul, unbeatable views of Yellow-lored Bristlebill, Grey Longbill, Forest Robin and Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat.

Our tour concluded in Entebbe. What a wonderful adventure with many, many memorable moments to cherish and savour. The birds were simply superb, the food great and the company unbeatable!

Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC List of: Gill, F. and M. Wright. 2006. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

Total species recorded: 524

An asterisk (*) indicates an Albertine Rift endemic (ARE) species.

QENP = Queen Elizabeth National Park

NP = National Park

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

Commonly recorded at a number of scattered savanna sites throughout the tour.

Crested Guineafowl

Guttera pucherani

We enjoyed two good sightings on the tour. First a group going to roost in Kibale NP and then just before entering the forest down at Buhoma.

Pheasants, Fowl and Allies Phasianidae

Nahan's Francolin

Ptilopachus nahani

This shy species was incredibly well seen as a total of four birds first called and then proceeded to cross the trail in front of us backward and forward for an amazing show while birding at Kanyo Pabidi.

Coqui Francolin

Peliperdix coqui

We located a pair of calling birds at Lake Mburo.

Crested Francolin

Dendroperdix sephaena

Good numbers were seen at Murchison Falls NP and Lake Mburo.

Heuglin's Francolin

Pternistis icterorhynchus

Good views were had of a two individual birds in Murchison Falls NP. This was Tom's 4000th world bird, congratulations!

Red-necked Francolin

Pternistis afer

We saw good numbers in Lake Mburo NP and Queen Elizabeth NP.

Ducks, Geese and Swans Anatidae

White-faced Whistling-Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

Our only sighting was on the Nile River in Murchison Falls NP.

Knob-billed (Comb) Duck

Sarkidiornis melanotos

Seen at Mabamba Swamp in the south of the country, and later on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP and along the Kazinga Channel.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiacus

This common waterfowl was recorded in scattered wetland localities throughout the tour.

Yellow-billed Duck

Anas undulata

This species was sighted at Mabamba Swamp in fair numbers.

Hottentot Teal

Anas hottentota

Many were seen on the edge of Lake Katwe and at a seasonal wetland outside Lake Mburo NP.

Grebes Podicipedidae

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

This species was sighted at a small seasonal wetland just outside Lake Mburo NP.

Storks Ciconiidae

Yellow-billed Stork

Mycteria ibis

Seen in QENP and along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

African Openbill

Anastomus lamelligerus

First seen on the edge of Lake Victoria, we recorded good numbers at a variety of localities thereafter.

Saddle-billed Stork

Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis

A huge and handsome species, we saw a single bird on the Kazinga Channel, and another single at extremely close range on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Marabou Stork

Leptoptilos crumeniferus

Seen all over Uganda, with truly impressive numbers in Kampala.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

(African) Sacred Ibis

Threskiornis aethiopicus

This species was seen at a few sites throughout the tour.

Hadada Ibis

Bostrychia hagedash

These noisy and conspicuous birds were frequently seen (note these birds pale eye, not present in southern African birds).

Glossy Ibis*Plegadis falcinellus*

First sighted at Mabamba Swamp and then again along the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

African Spoonbill*Platalea alba*

A total of two were seen along the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

Hérons & Bitterns Ardeidae**Black-crowned Night Heron***Nycticorax nycticorax*

A number of birds were seen in thick lakeside vegetation on Lake Mburo.

Striated Heron*Butorides striata*

A few were seen on Lake Mburo.

(Common) Squacco Heron*Ardeola ralloides*

This species was seen on the Kazinga Channel and at Mabamba Swamp.

Cattle Egret*Bubulcus ibis*

A common, easily seen species, often in association with big game.

NOTE: This group may be split into 2 species, the nominate Common Cattle Egret and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret E. coromanda. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

Grey Heron*Ardea cinerea*

This aquatic hunter (unlike the following species) was first recorded along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP, and then at scattered wetland locales thereafter.

Black-headed Heron*Ardea melanocephala*

A terrestrial bird, we saw birds on a number of days during the tour.

Goliath Heron*Ardea goliath*

The largest heron in the world, we found one in Murchison Falls NP.

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

We saw this smart bird at Mabamba Swamp.

NOTE: The Cape Verde Islands A. p. bournei is sometimes split off as Cape Verde Purple Heron or Bourne's Heron.

Great (White) Egret*Ardea alba*

We saw this species at some of the larger water bodies (i.e. Kazinga Channel, Nile River in Murchison Falls).

NOTE: The nominate Old World Great Egret may be split from the New World A. a. egretta which would become American Egret. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

Intermediate Egret*Egretta intermedia*

We found this species in small numbers at Mabamba Swamp and along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP

Little Egret*Egretta garzetta*

This widespread wetland bird was seen at a number of waterbodies throughout the tour.

NOTE: Clements lumps Little and Madagascar's Dimorphic Egret E. dimorpha into a single species. This treatment is not widely accepted.

Hamerkop Scopidae**Hamerkop***Scopus umbretta*

In a monotypic family, and endemic to the Afrotropics and Madagascar, we saw it regularly in wetland situations throughout Uganda.

Shoebill Balaenicipitidae**Shoebill***Balaeniceps rex*

Uganda's biggest avian prize gave itself up so wonderfully on our very first day of birding in the country. We had a memorable encounter with a single bird at Mabamba Swamp that we managed to approach ever so close to on our boats. We then absorbed the sighting for quite some time before it launched itself into the air for a magnificent flight view. Later on we located another bird at Mabamba

Swamp and then while birding the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP we again came across another pair of birds feeding at the waters edge in the delta region. Simply superb!

Pelicans Pelecanidae

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

A few were seen on the Kazinga Channel. The crisp, white colour of the bird gives it a very smart, dignified appearance.

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*

Common in Uganda, we had our good views on the Kazinga and at Murchison Falls NP.

Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus*

We encountered this species at water bodies throughout the tour, beginning with Entebbe.

White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus*

Our only views were of a flock sitting on a large bank along the Kazinga Channel.

Anhingas Anhangidae

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

A single bird was seen on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Kites Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

We saw this species fairly frequently during the course of our tour.

Black (Yellow-billed) Kite *Milvus (aegyptius) migrans*

A ubiquitous species; its forked tail was a familiar sight in many open country and city environments. All birds seen were of the resident Yellow-billed form.

NOTE: Many authorities treat the resident African subspecies of this raptor as a separate species, Yellow-billed Kite M. aegyptius, bizarrely however IOC does not accept this split.

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*

This species was encountered in various aquatic environs throughout the tour.

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*

Birds (generally singles) were encountered fairly regularly during the tour especially in QENP.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*

We encountered maximum numbers of this species in Kampala, where they form the “clean-up” squad along with Marabou Storks.

(African) White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*

Generally the most common savanna vulture, we encountered this species in Lake Mburo and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

Ruppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppelli*

A single was seen in amongst a large group of roosting vultures in QENP.

White-headed Vulture *Aegyptius occipitalis*

A single bird was found eating something in a burnt area of QENP.

Lappet-faced Vulture *Aegyptius tracheliotus*

An enormous bird (the biggest Afro-tropical vulture), we recorded it in QENP.

Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*

We encountered one bird while in Lake Mburo NP.

Brown Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*

Seen in Murchison Falls NP and in QENP.

Western Banded Snake Eagle*Circaetus cinerascens*

Great views were had of birds en route to Masindi and later in Murchison Falls NP.

Bateleur*Terathopius ecaudatus*

A beautiful and widespread bird of savanna areas across Africa, we enjoyed great views in Lake Mburo, Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls NP's.

African Marsh Harrier*Circus aeruginosus*

Two birds were seen in QENP and our first sightings came from Mabamba Swamp.

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene)*Polyboroides typus*

Singles were encountered at scattered localities throughout the tour.

Dark Chanting Goshawk*Melierax metabates*

A total of five birds were seen in the vicinity of Murchison Falls NP.

Gabar Goshawk*Micronisus gabar*

A single bird was sighted just outside Murchison Falls NP.

African Goshawk*Accipiter tachiro*

This species was seen at Buhoma, Kibale NP and Kanyo Pabidi.

NOTE: The West African forms are sometimes separated as Red-chested Goshawk A. toussenelii. IOC and Clements accepts this controversial split.

Shikra (Little Banded Goshawk)*Accipiter badius*

A single bird was seen in the vicinity of Masindi.

NOTE: We recorded the northern Shikra A. b. sphenurus which some authorities consider distinct from the southern African Shikra A. b. polyzonoides. These forms may also be split from the Asian nominate A. b. badius and other Asian forms. These splits are not widely recognised.

Black Sparrowhawk (Goshawk)*Accipiter melanoleucus*

One bird was recorded early one morning flying across a gap in the high forests in the Ruhizha area.

Lizard Buzzard*Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

We saw a few scattered birds along roadsides during the tour.

Mountain Buzzard*Buteo oreophilus*

This species was seen on three occasions in the Ruhizha area, once perched and twice in flight.

Augur Buzzard*Buteo augur*

This handsome raptor was seen on a number of days in the highland areas in south-western Uganda.

Tawny Eagle*Aquila rapax*

A savanna associated raptor, we recorded it at Lake Mburo, QENP and Murchison Falls NP.

Cassin's Hawk-Eagle*Aquila africana*

A single bird was sighted by one participant at Buhoma.

Wahlberg's Eagle*Aquila wahlbergi*

We encountered this species with most frequency in the latter half of the tour, where its "T-shaped" silhouette was a fairly regularly encountered.

Martial Eagle*Polemaetus bellicosus*

We found a single magnificent immature bird on the north bank of the Nile with further sightings at QENP.

Long-crested Eagle*Lophaetus occipitalis*

One of the more common eagles on the tour, we encountered this species relatively frequently at roadsides, its "punk-style" hair-do evident for everyone to see!

Falcons Falconidae**Common Kestrel***Falco tinnunculus*

This species was seen in one of the towns between Lake Mburo and Entebbe.

NOTE: IOC has now split the distinctive Rock Kestrel F. rupicolus of Southern Africa from the nominate Common Kestrel which we observed in Uganda.

Grey Kestrel*Falco ardosiaceus*

First seen at Mabamba Swamp. Quite widespread in Uganda, where it is seen in small numbers in more open country.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

We had prolonged views of a single perched bird on the Mweya Peninsula, QENP.

Bustards Otidae

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster*

A single bird sighted in long grass in QENP.

Flufftails Sarothruridae

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra*

We found a pair of responsive birds at Bigodi Swamp.

Red-chested Flufftail *Sarothrura rufa*

This secretive species was heard calling at Mubwindi Swamp.

Finfoots Heliornithidae

African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis*

Our Lake Mburo boat cruise allowed excellent views of this usually secretive species. An amazing seven birds comprising of males, females and immatures were seen in total. Incredible!

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

African Crake *Crecopsis egregia*

A total of six birds were seen while we drove the roads through QENP.

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra*

We recorded scattered birds at a few wetland localities throughout the tour.

African (Purple) Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis*

Two birds sighted on our first day of the tour at Mabamba Swamp was the only time we located this striking species.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

This species was found at Mabamba Swamp.

Cranes Gruidae

Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum*

Uganda's national bird, we enjoyed a number of great views this species throughout the tour.

Thick-knees Burhinidae

Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus*

Seen at the waters edge along the Kazinga Channel and Lake Mburo NP.

Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

A few birds were seen in QENP.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avocetta*

This smart shorebird was recorded at Lake Katwe.

Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae

Long-toed Lapwing *Vanellus crassirostris*

Seen at scattered wetlands during the tour (e.g. Mabamba Swamp and Murchison Falls NP).

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*

A smart species (the northern counterpart of the Blacksmith Lapwing), we recorded birds at a few wetland areas during the tour.

Senegal (Lesser Black-winged) Lapwing *Vanellus lugubris*

First seen near Mabamba Swamp, with peak numbers seen in QENP and again at Lake Mburo NP.

Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus*

A small group was seen in the Kasenyi area of QENP.

African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus*

This large lapwing was encountered at many grassland sites throughout the tour.

Brown-chested Lapwing *Vanellus superciliosus*

A group of five of this highly sought-after migrant was seen in Lake Mburo NP (interestingly, it is a trans-equatorial migrant, moving east-west through tropical Africa).

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*

We recorded this species in QENP.

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*

At least six birds were sighted at a seasonal wetland just outside Lake Mburo.

Jacanas Jacanidae

Lesser Jacana *Microparra capensis*

This tiny species was briefly seen in flooded vegetation at Mabamba Swamp.

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*

Seen at scattered wetland sites throughout the tour.

Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Seen in QENP.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

A single bird was sighted at a flooded area outside Lake Mburo NP

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

This usually widespread species was sighted at a small wetland outside Lake Mburo NP.

Couriers & Pratincoles Glareolidae

Bronze-winged Courser *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus*

A very rare species in Uganda and a highly desirable bird anywhere in Africa. We were blown away by an amazing sighting of a pair in Lake Mburo NP.

Collared (Red-winged) Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

Our only views of this species came during our Kazinga Channel boat cruise.

Rock Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis*

This smart species was seen at Murchison Falls in good numbers.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

Grey-headed Gull *Larus cirrocephalus*

A few birds were seen on the Kazinga Channel.

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Good numbers of this species were recorded at Mabamba Swamp.

Pigeons and Doves Columbidae

- Common Pigeon** *Columba livia*
Recorded in and around human settlements during the tour.
- Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*
We found this species on our final day in Jinja.
- Afep Pigeon** *Columba uncinata*
We enjoyed a fabulous view of this species in the canopy of a fruiting tree in Kanyo Pabidi after it was initially heard calling. Later we found four birds perched on a dead tree in Kibale NP waiting for the morning sun.
- African Olive (Rameron) Pigeon** *Columba arquatrix*
A few birds were seen in the montane rainforest at Ruhija.
- White-naped Pigeon** *Columba albinucha*
This large pigeon is a rare sighting and also a highly localized bird almost exclusively found in Uganda with a small disjunct population in Cameroon. We were extremely fortunate to find a single bird which we could observe through the scope at Kibale NP as it perched atop a dead tree waiting for the morning sun.
- Western Bronze-naped Pigeon** *Columba iriditorques*
Heard calling at Buhoma. Their mournful call high in the canopy is often all that alerts one to their presence!
- Mourning (Collared) Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens*
This savanna species was seen outside Murchison Falls NP.
- Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*
This species was seen almost daily, and must be one of the most common doves on the tour.
- Ring-necked (Cape Turtle) Dove** *Streptopelia capicola*
We saw this species in good numbers in savanna environs.
- Vinaceous Dove** *Streptopelia vinacea*
Seen in Murchison Falls NP, as well as the drier areas around Masindi. Best told from the previous species by its distinctive call.
- Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*
A few scattered birds were seen during the tour especially QENP.
- Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos*
This species is restricted to the south and east of Uganda. We recorded it in Lake Mburo NP.
- Black-billed Wood Dove** *Turtur abyssinicus*
Seen in Murchison Falls NP, where it was fairly common. Restricted to woodland in the north of Uganda.
- Blue-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur afer*
A fairly widespread wood dove Uganda, we recorded it at a number of localities throughout.
- Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*
Seen in forest and dense woodland, we recorded it at a number of locales.
- Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*
We had good views of this rather scarce bird in Uganda when a beautiful male was sighted outside Murchison Falls NP. Its presence can probably be attributed to the dry, dusty conditions that we encountered.
- Bruce's Green Pigeon** *Treron waalia*
It took a bit of searching to eventually locate this good species in its favoured fig tree savanna habitat but when we found the right tree they were there in good numbers.
- African Green Pigeon** *Treron calva*
A parrot-like pigeon, it was seen quite widely throughout the tour.

Parrots and Allies Psittacidae

Red-headed Lovebird

Agapornis pullarius

Seen briefly in flight at Murro.

Grey Parrot

Psittacus erithacus

We had an incredible encounter with this species outside the 'royal mile', Budongo forest when at least 150 of these amazing birds were seen.

Meyer's (Brown) Parrot

Poicephalus meyeri

We encountered this species at Lake Mburo NP, where a number of individuals were seen.

Turacos Musophagidae

Great Blue Turaco

Corythaeola cristata

A spectacular species, it is pleasantly common in Uganda, and treated us to numerous good views.

Black-billed Turaco

Tauraco schuettii

We recorded this species Bwindi Impenetrable NP where we were treated to good close views.

White-crested Turaco

Tauraco leucolophus

A stunning species (one of the best looking turacos!), we found a single bird at Luwero Swamp.

Ross's Turaco

Musophaga rossae

Another stunner, we recorded it first in Kampala and later at Buhoma and Lake Mburo NP.

Bare-faced Go-away-bird

Corythaixoides personatus

In Uganda, only found in the south of the county, where we obtained great views (quite common at Lake Mburo NP).

Eastern (Grey) Plantain-eater

Crinifer zonurus

We saw this species all over Uganda, where its strange, raucous call was often a source of much amusement.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Senegal Coucal

Centropus senegalensis

We had good views of this species in Murchison Falls NP and near Masindi.

Blue-headed Coucal

Centropus monachus

This is a large wetland coucal, we had great views at Mabamba Swamp and then again at Bigodi Swamp.

White-browed Coucal

Centropus superciliosus

Probably the most common coucal in Uganda, we recorded it fairly frequently during the tour.

NOTE: Clements does not recognise the widely accepted split of the southern dark-browed Burchell's Coucal C. burchelli from the northerly White-browed Coucal C. superciliosus which we recorded in Uganda.

Black Coucal

Centropus grillii

This species favours rank grassland, the habitat that we saw it in QENP (We saw two birds here, one an adult and another immature).

Green (Blue) Malkoha

Ceuthmochares aereus

This is a skulky forest species that favours thickets and was well seen at Kanyo Pabidi, Kibale NP and Mabira forests.

Note: Some authorities split this species into Green Malkoha, C. australis that occurs in East and Southern Africa and Blue Malkoha, C. aereus that we observed and occurs in East, West and Central Africa. IOC and Clements do not as yet accept this split.

Levaillant's Cuckoo

Clamator levaillantii

We recorded this species on our first day in woodland near Mabamba Swamp.

Jacobin (Pied) Cuckoo

Clamator jacobinus

A single bird was well seen in the woodlands of Murchison Falls NP.

Dideric Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx caprius

Seen near Mabamba Swamp and again in Murchison Falls NP.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

Singles were sighted at scattered localities on tour.

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

This beautiful species was well seen on our way to Mabamba Swamp and then again in Kibale NP, on both occasions we were treated to scope views of the male.

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx mechowi*

This notorious skulker was heard in a number of forests, with our first views coming from the Royal Mile. We later had amazing scope views of a perched bird in Kanyo Pabidi.

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*

This usually widespread and familiar species was only heard calling along the Royal Mile and on our drive to Mabamba Swamp.

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis*

A single bird was sighted on an afternoon drive in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Typical Owls Strigidae

Verreaux's Eagle Owl *Bubo lacteus*

We were treated to stunning views of a bird on the nest in Queen Elizabeth NP just before sunset.

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii*

This species was heard up at Ruhizha.

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*

This small owlet was well seen when a pair responded well to a whistled imitation of its call in Lake Mburo NP.

Red-chested Owlet *Glaucidium tephronotum*

Heard calling in Kibale Forest early one morning.

Nightjars & Allies Caprimulgidae

Long-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus climacurus*

We had fantastic views of at least five birds on our night excursion in Murchison Falls NP.

Slender-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus clarus*

A single bird was very well seen while in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii*

Excellent views were enjoyed on a night drive in Murchison Falls NP.

Pennant-winged Nightjar *Macrodipteryx vexillarius*

An amazing bird, it was seen on a number of occasions during our night drive in Murchison Falls NP. The males are quite phenomenal, and are always a highlight of any tour!

Swifts Apodidae

Scarce Swift *Schoutedenapus myoptilus*

Seen over the Buhoma portion of Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Sabine's Spinetail *Rhaphidura sabini*

A smart bird, we recorded five birds flying over a clearing on the Royal Mile.

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

Seen in good numbers in the first half of the tour in the presence of palms (as the name suggests!).

NOTE: The nominate African form of the Palm Swift is considered to be distinct from the Malagasy form C. p. gracilis by some authorities. IOC and Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*

A few birds were sighted flying above the Kibale Forest.

African Black Swift *Apus barbatus*

We had very good close views of a large group near a known breeding site, near the town of Kabale on our drive from Ruhizha to Lake Mburo NP.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Good numbers were seen throughout the tour. A stocky swift with a broad white rump and square tail.

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

We also had good numbers of this species, which although superficially similar to Little Swift is slimmer, with a forked tail and smaller white rump.

Mousebirds Coliidae

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*

One of the commonest birds of the trip, with birds seen almost daily.

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*

A more elegant and faster flying version of the previous bird, with birds sighted in Lake Mburo, Queen Elizabeth and just outside Murchison Falls NP's.

Trogon Trogonidae

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina*

A forest beauty, which we obtained excellent views of in Kanyo Pabidi.

Bar-tailed Trogon *Apaloderma vittatum*

Possibly a more beautiful version of the previous species, we had great views of four birds in the Buhoma section of Bwindi NP.

Rollers Coraciidae

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudata*

The beautiful species was seen very well in Lake Mburo NP.

Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis*

The forest version of the next species, which was extremely well seen along the Royal Mile and again at Busingiro.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*

A noisy species, good numbers were seen in moister woodland environments during the tour.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia*

A brilliant bird, this rainforest inhabitant provided extended scope views at the Royal Mile and again at Busingiro.

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*

First encountered in Murchison Falls NP, with a number of subsequent sightings in savanna type habitats.

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*

This noisy species was first encountered widely throughout the tour.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica*

This rainforest beauty was seen on the Royal Mile, allowing excellent close views!

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*

The nominate central African resident sub-species is very common in Uganda, and we had numerous good views of this one.

African Dwarf Kingfisher *Ispidina lecontei*

Another rainforest inhabitant, after much searching we finally managed to find a single bird which was well seen at Busingiro.

African Pygmy Kingfisher*Ispidina picta*

This gorgeous species is pleasantly common in Uganda and was well seen at scattered sites throughout the tour.

Malachite Kingfisher*Alcedo cristata*

We saw this species alongside major waterbodies, beginning with good views at Mabamba Swamp.

Shining-blue Kingfisher*Alcedo quadribrachys*

This incredible species was seen in Kibale NP when we managed to get scope views of a single bird at a river crossing in the forest.

Pied Kingfisher*Ceryle rudis*

Enormous numbers of this species were seen on the tour! Probably the most common and widespread kingfisher species in the world.

Bee-eaters Meropidae**Black Bee-eater***Merops gularis*

An amazing bird, which we enjoyed at Kibale NP and at Buhoma.

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater*Merops hirundineus*

A number of birds were seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Little Bee-eater*Merops pusillus*

Seen in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

Blue-breasted Bee-eater*Merops variegates*

We enjoyed great views of at least six birds at Mabamba Swamp

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater*Merops oreobates*

Found at fairly high altitudes, we got excellent views of this species in Bwindi Impenetrable NP especially in the Ruhizha section.

Red-throated Bee-eater*Merops bulocki*

We saw good numbers of this species in Murchison Falls NP.

White-throated Bee-eater*Merops albicollis*

We enjoyed good views near Mabamba Swamp with later sightings near Mabira Forest.

Olive Bee-eater*Merops superciliosus*

This species was especially common in QENP, where we obtained numerous sightings!

Northern Carmine Bee-eater*Merops nubicus*

Another beautiful bee-eater, which we saw very well on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Hoopoes Upupidae**African Hoopoe***Upupa africana*

A single bird was sighted as we entered Lake Mburo NP. A striking species!

Woodhoopoes Phoeniculidae**White-headed Woodhoopoe***Phoeniculus bollei*

An impressive bird, it was seen at the Buhoma and Ruhija sections of Bwindi NP.

Green Woodhoopoe*Phoeniculus purpureus*

Large groups of this highly vocal and showy species were seen on numerous occasions in Lake Mburo NP.

Common Scimitarbill*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

We saw a pair in Lake Mburo NP while our initial looks were had in the Ishasha section of QENP.

Hornbills Bucerotidae

Crowned Hornbill*Tockus alboterminatus*

First encountered as we departed Entebbe, and then at scattered woodland sites thereafter.

African Pied Hornbill*Tockus fasciatus*

We obtained excellent views of this species on our drive to Mabira Forest.

African Grey Hornbill*Tockus nasutus*

This savanna inhabitant was encountered in Lake Mburo and Murchison Falls NP's.

White-thighed Hornbill*Bycanistes albotibialis*

We obtained a few great views of this species in Budongo Forest.

Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill*Bycanistes subcylindricus*

Relatively common in Uganda, we enjoyed numerous great views of this species.

Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae**Abyssinian Ground Hornbill***Bucorvus abyssinicus*

This prehistoric looking bird was well seen on a number of occasions in Murchison Falls NP, with our first sighting being of a pair near our accommodations in the park.

Barbets Ramphastidae**Grey-throated Barbet***Gymnobucco bonapartei*

Possessing a "tufted nose", this species was first encountered at Sebitole in Kibale NP thereafter we enjoyed many more looks in Bwindi NP.

Speckled Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

Seen at a number of forest sites beginning with the Royal Mile.

Western Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus coryphaeus*

We obtained superb views of this tough species while at Ruhija.

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus subsulphureus*

Possessing a more rapid call than the following species, it was seen at most forest sites throughout the tour.

Yellow (Golden)-rumped Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus bilineatus*

The most common forest tinkerbird in Uganda, with numerous sightings throughout.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

We encountered this savanna Tinkerbird in Queen Elizabeth NP, with our first views coming from savanna near Masindi.

Yellow-spotted Barbet*Buccanodon duchaillui*

This beautiful bird was seen at Kibale NP. Possesses a lovely purring call.

Hairy-breasted Barbet*Tricholaema hirsuta*

Good views were had in Kibale NP, Bwindi Forest and Mabira Forest.

Note: We observed the race ansorgei. Some authorities split this species into Hairy-breasted Barbet T. hirsuta that occurs in West Africa and Streaky-throated Barbet T. flavipunctata that we observed and occurs in East and Central Africa. IOC and Clements does not as yet accept this split (see Ryan and Sinclair 2003).

Spot-flanked Barbet*Tricholaema lacrymosa*

A savanna species, seen very well in Lake Mburo NP, Queen Elizabeth NP and near Masindi.

White-headed Barbet*Lybius leucocephalus*

We obtained excellent views of this species near Masindi.

Red-faced Barbet*Lybius rubrifacies*

This species is very range restricted, and in Uganda only occurs only in Lake Mburo NP, where we obtained excellent sightings.

Black-billed Barbet*Lybius guifsobalito*

Similar in appearance to the previous species, we enjoyed very good sightings while in Murchison Falls NP.

Black-collared Barbet

This species is extremely localised in Uganda and we were very fortunate to find a pair in Lake Mburo NP.

Double-toothed Barbet

Lybius bidentatus

A spectacular bird, we first encountered it in the Ishasha section of QENP (on the DRC side of the river), with further sightings at Lake Mburo NP.

Yellow-billed Barbet

Trachyphonus purpuratus

Seen very well at Mabira Forest, this is a strikingly patterned canopy forest species.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae**Cassin's Honeybird**

Prodotiscus insignis

We enjoyed a really good view of a single bird in a mixed feeding flock while in Kibale NP.

Willcocks's Honeyguide

Indicator willcocksii

A single bird was sighted at the Buhoma section of Bwindi NP.

Thick-billed Honeyguide

Indicator conirostris

This species was heard calling in a tall stand of *Cynometra* trees in Kaniyo Pabidi.

Lesser Honeyguide

Indicator minor

We had close views of a single bird while at Lake Mburo NP.

Greater Honeyguide

Indicator indicator

This species was unfortunately only heard calling at a lunch stop en route to Lake Mburo NP.

Woodpeckers Picidae**Nubian Woodpecker**

Campethera nubica

This species was well seen near Masindi, in QENP and also in Lake Mburo NP.

Green-backed Woodpecker

Campethera cailliautii

We enjoyed good views of this uncommon species at Buhoma and again in Lake Mburo NP.

Tullberg's Woodpecker

Campethera tullbergi

A single bird was very well seen in a mixed feeding flock while on the trails at Buhoma.

Buff-spotted Woodpecker

Campethera nivosa

A pair was well seen along the Royal Mile.

Brown-eared Woodpecker

Campethera caroli

We saw two birds at the Royal Mile; a smart bird indeed!

Speckle-breasted Woodpecker

Dendropicus poecilolaemus

This rather uncommon species was sighted at Bigodi Swamp when a pair was located feeding in dense tangles.

Cardinal Woodpecker

Dendropicos fuscescens

This widespread African species was seen intermittently throughout the tour.

Golden-tailed Woodpecker

Highly localised in Uganda, we found a pair in woodland in lake Mburo NP. The distinctive call is what initially got us onto the bird's presence.

Yellow-crested (Golden-crowned) Woodpecker

Dendropicos xantholophus

Very good close views of this forest species were enjoyed in the Budongo Forest and Kibale NP.

Elliot's Woodpecker

Dendropicos elliotii

Excellent views were had of this species at Buhoma and down at Mubwindi Swamp.

African Grey Woodpecker

Dendropicos goertae

A pair was sighted on our drive from Entebbe to Masindi.

Pittas Pittidae*Pitta reichenowi***Green-breasted Pitta**

This is one of the most sought-after and prized species in all of Uganda and in fact the entire African continent. Special effort was made to view this species as we arranged to access the forest at Kibale before dawn to be in position when the birds began calling. The birds were heard calling just after arriving at the known territory and after spending roughly half an hour following the calls carefully we finally obtained the most amazing views of a bird perched 20 meters above the ground displaying on a horizontal branch in excellent light. The colours just remarkable! One of the undoubted highlights and star birds of the tour!

Wattle-eyes, Batises Platysteiridae**(African) Shrike-flycatcher***Megabias flammulatus*

Seen at Buhoma and the Royal Mile. This large, forest flycatcher has a curious side-to-side tail wag, which often betrays its presence!

Black-and-white (Shrike-) Flycatcher*Bias musicus*

This interesting species was seen very well in Kibale NP when a female was sighted with our first views of a male coming from an area of woodland near Mabamba Swamp.

NOTE: Also known as Vanga Flycatcher.

Chestnut Wattle-eye*Dyaphorophyia castanea*

This lovely bird was seen at all forest sites visited on the tour.

Ruwenzori Batis**Batis diops*

Possessing distinctive “stars” on the forecrown, we observed a few in the high Ruhija section of Bwindi NP.

Chinspot Batis*Batis molitor*

Seen at Lake Mburo NP where it was regular in mixed feeding flocks.

(Western) Black-headed Batis*Batis minor*

Very good views were had in and nearby Murchison Falls NP.

Ituri Batis*Batis ituriensis*

We got great scope views of this species at Busingiro. In East Africa, this uncommon bird is restricted to Budongo Forest (where we saw it, and Semliki Forest, on the DRC border in western Uganda).

Brown-throated Wattle-eye*Platysteira cyanea*

We enjoyed great views of a pair at Bigodi Swamp.

Helmetshrikes**White-crested Helmetshrike***Prionops plumatus*

Excellent views of a group were had on our drive to Murchison Falls while in the national park.

Bushshrikes Malaconotidae**Grey-headed Bushshrike***Malaconotus blanchoti*

A single of this large bushshrike was seen in broadleaved woodland near to Masindi.

Bocage's Bushshrike*Chlorophoneus bocagei*

We had very good views of this species at Buhoma.

Orange-breasted Bushshrike*Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

We found this species in mixed feeding flocks in Lake Mburo NP.

Brown-crowned Tchagra*Tchagra australis*

Seen at scattered sites throughout the country.

Black-crowned Tchagra*Tchagra senegalus*

Seen at various savanna localities during the trip.

Pink-footed Puffback *Dryoscopus angolensis*

This uncommon forest shrike was seen well on a few occasions at Buhoma.

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*

We encountered it in montane habitat (at Ruhija), as well as at Murchison Falls NP.

Lowland Sooty Boubou *Laniarius leucorhynchus*

This rather shy and secretive species was only heard at Mabira Forest.

Mountain Sooty Boubou *Laniarius poensis*

We enjoyed good looks at this shy species while at Buhoma and Ruhizha in Bwindi NP.

Lühder's Bushshrike *Laniarius luehderi*

This species was well seen while at Buhoma. Has a habit of keeping to thick tangles. Our initial views came from Sebitole, Kibale NP, where a single bird was found mobbing a snake.

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius aethiopicus*

Widespread in Uganda, we encountered our first birds near Masindi.

Papyrus Gonolek *Laniarius mufumbiri*

Usually a very skulky bird, this species was very well seen at Mabamba Swamp where we had unbeatable views of a pair.

Black-headed Gonolek *Laniarius erythrogaster*

Our best views of this species were at QENP, where it sometimes perches conspicuously on *Euphorbia* stems. A much more common savanna equivalent of the previous species.

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

A pair was seen in *Acacia* woodland at Lake Mburo NP.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava*

A woodland and forest edge species, we first encountered it on the DRC border in the Ishasha section of QENP.

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea*

Initially we found a female which showed briefly in Murchison Falls NP while a later sighting of a male in the Ishasha section of QENP showed off much better.

Petit's Cuckooshrike *Campephaga petiti*

Good views of both male and females were enjoyed at Buhoma, commonly associated with mixed flocks.

Shrikes Laniidae

Yellow-billed Shrike *Corvinella corvine*

This desirable species is rather uncommon in Uganda and we were fortunate to locate a group of three birds in the late afternoon while travelling back to our lodgings in Murchison Falls NP.

Mackinnon's Shrike (Fiscal) *Lanius mackinnoni*

This species was seen near to Ruhija. Found at the forest edge in higher lying areas in the country.

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*

Very common, and seen on most days.

Common Fiscal *Lanius collaris*

Seen on a good number of days, but not as common as the previous species.

Old World Orioles

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus*

Three of these glowing, bright yellow birds were seen at Luwero Swamp.

Western (Black-headed) Oriole *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

First seen at Busingiro, with additional good views at Kibale Forest.

Mountain (Black-tailed) Oriole *Oriolus percivali*

We had good views of this species at Buhoma.

(African) Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus*

This species was seen well at Lake Mburo NP. Found in savanna and woodland in Uganda.

Drongos

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

Recorded in savanna habitats throughout Uganda. Has a tendency to mob raptors.

Monarch Flycatchers

Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufiventer*

This smart bird was first encountered along the Royal Mile, and was later seen at Busingiro and Kibale Forest as well.

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

This often recorded flycatcher was seen in a variety of habitats in Uganda.

Crows Corvidae

Piapiac *Ptilostomus afer*

This strange game and livestock associated corvid was seen in good numbers in and outside Murchison Falls NP. We also had a few on our final day in Jinja

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

Commonly recorded on the tour.

White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis*

We found two birds in the Ruhizha area. This species is associated with the mountainous highlands of the south-west in Uganda.

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*

This lively bird was first seen near Mabamba Swamp and thereafter near Masindi and again at Mabira Forest.

White-tailed Blue Flycatcher *Elminia albicauda*

This montane equivalent of the previous species was well seen in Bwindi Impenetrable NP. Constantly fans its tail, exposing white outer tail feathers, very similar behaviour to the Asian Fantails.

Tits Paridae

White-shouldered Black Tit *Melaniparus guineensis*

Seen near Mabamba Swamp, Luwero Swamp and at the Butiaba Escarpment. Possesses a pale eye, and is found in woodland in the northern part of Uganda.

White-winged Black Tit *Melaniparus leucomelas*

We had good views of this species at Lake Mburo NP. Found in the south of Uganda, and has a dark iris (as opposed to the pale iris of the previous species).

Dusky Tit *Melaniparus funereus*

A number of birds in a flock showed well at Buhoma, with our initial sighting coming from the Royal Mile.

Stripe-breasted Tit* *Melaniparus fasciiventer*

Heard calling a number of times before we eventually tracked down a calling bird while in the Ruhizha section of Bwindi NP.

Penduline Tits Remizidae

Grey (African) Penduline Tit

Anthoscopus caroli

We had a small group of four birds in Lake Mburo NP. One of the smallest birds in Africa.

Nicator Nicatoridae

Western Nicator

Nicator chloris

We really did have a stunning view of this rather skulky species at Busingiro with additional looks at Kibale NP and Mabira Forest.

Larks Alaudidae

Rufous-naped Lark

Mirafra africana

Recorded regularly in QENP and has a habit of sitting on top of a prominent bush when giving its familiar call.

Flappet Lark

Mirafra rufocinnamomea

Fairly common in Uganda, we recorded a few individuals in savanna areas during the tour.

Red-capped Lark

Calandrella cinerea

Three birds were sighted in QENP. For the most part, a scarce bird in Uganda and certainly in the area on account of the super dry conditions.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

Dark-capped Bulbul

Pycnonotus tricolor

Seen every day. Definitely the most common bird of the trip.

Note: A confusing genus, the birds we saw have been split from Common Bulbul P. barbatus which is found further north in Africa.

Kakamega Greenbul

Andropadus kakamegae

A number of birds were seen at Buhoma. Often seen as it works mossy stems and vines in small groups.

NOTE: A recent split from Shelley's Greenbul A. masukuensis, which is restricted to the Eastern Arc Mountains of Tanzania and northern Malawi. Kakamega Greenbul is restricted to the Albertine Rift and a few scattered forest sites in East Africa, and named after the forest in western Kenya from which it was described.

Olive-breasted (Mountain) Greenbul

Andropadus nigriceps

Fairly common at Ruhija where it was quite conspicuous.

NOTE: The Mountain Greenbuls have recently been split into a number of species scattered in higher altitude forest patches across Africa. The birds we saw are endemic to the Albertine Rift and central Kenya.

Little Greenbul

Andropadus virens

A common forest greenbul (one of the most common and widespread).

Little Grey Greenbul

Andropadus gracilis

We encountered this species at the Royal Mile.

Ansorge's Greenbul

Andropadus ansorgei

Six birds were seen at Buhoma. Generally lacks distinctive features (aside from the gingery flanks and vent, and distinctive call).

Plain (Cameroon Sombre) Greenbul

Andropadus curvirostris

A largish forest greenbul (with an indistinct, white eyering), it was seen at Busingiro and Kibale NP.

Slender-billed Greenbul

Andropadus gracilirostris

Quite common in Uganda, we enjoyed a number of good views of this species. A bicoloured bird with a reddish eye, it often perches conspicuously on the outer edge of the canopy.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul*Andropadus latirostris*

A fairly common interior forest greenbul, heard frequently during the tour (probably one of the most frequently heard greenbul species, along with Little Greenbul).

Honeyguide Greenbul*Baeopogon indicator*

We had very good views of this species at Sebitole, Kibale NP. The pale iris and white outer tail feathers were very evident. Usually only reveals its presence through its beautiful call.

Spotted Greenbul*Ixonotus guttatus*

Six birds were seen very well at the Royal Mile. Often flocks move very swiftly through the canopy.

Joyful Greenbul*Chlorocichla laetissima*

Very good views of this species were had at Sebitole, Kibale NP. A good looking, bright golden bird!

Yellow-throated Leaflove (Greenbul)*Chlorocichla flavicollis*

Seen well near Mabamba Swamp and Buhoma. This moist woodland inhabitant has a white (not yellow) throat in Uganda.

NOTE: Birds in Uganda belong to the subspecies flavigula (also known as pallidigula).

Toro Olive Greenbul*Phyllastrephus hypochloris*

Very good views were had of a pair showing the key features well in forest understory at Mabira Forest

Cabanis's Greenbul*Phyllastrephus cabanisi*

Lovely views were had at the edge of the forest at Buhoma where they were initially located by their distinctive call.

White-throated Greenbul*Phyllastrephus albigularis*

Recorded at the Royal Mile, Kaniyo Pabidi and Mabira forests. Usually seen in small groups.

Yellow-streaked Greenbul*Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*

A large, wing and tail flicking greenbul that was well seen at Ruhizha as it foraged in small groups. The yellow streaking on the underside of the bird is virtually impossible to see!

Red-tailed (Common) Bristlebill*Bleda syndactylus*

This skulky species was first seen at Sebitole mobbing a snake and thereafter on a few occasions at Buhoma.

Yellow-lored (Lesser) Bristlebill*Bleda notatus*

Remarkable views of this usually extremely shy bird were had in the understory of Mabira Forest.

Red-tailed Greenbul*Criniger calurus*

Fairly common in Uganda, we recorded it at Buhoma and Mabira Forest.

Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae**White-headed Saw-wing***Psalidoprocne albiceps*

This smart species was seen quite frequently throughout the country.

Black Saw-wing*Psalidoprocne holomelas*

Fairly common in the more high lying areas, where it generally replaces the previous species.

NOTE: The Black Saw-wing complex is sometimes split into eight full species with the Ugandan form being retained in P. holomelas.

Brown-throated (Plain) Martin*Riparia paludicola*

Good numbers were noted along the Kazinga Channel where they breed in the sandbanks.

Banded Martin*Riparia cincta*

This species was seen over grassland on the Kasenyi Track while our initial views were at Mabamba Swamp.

Barn Swallow*Hirundo rustica*

A few birds were found at QENP.

Angola Swallow*Hirundo angolensis*

Quite a common species, and seen quite frequently in villages. Appears as a dirtier version of Barn Swallow, with an incomplete breast band.

Wire-tailed Swallow*Hirundo smithii*

A beautiful swallow, we had great views of it on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Rock Martin*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

First encountered just outside our accommodations in Buhoma.

NOTE: This confusing polytypic complex is being reviewed for multi-species splitting. Within the African populations, three potential species exist. The southern African nominate form H. f. fuligula would remain as Rock Martin and the more northern populations would become Red-throated Rock Martin H. pusilla which is resident in Uganda. Palearctic birds would become Pale Crag Martin H. obsolete. IOC and Clements do not as yet recognise any of these splits.

Lesser Striped Swallow*Cecropis abyssinica*

Seen fairly regularly throughout the tour in savanna environs.

Red-breasted Swallow*Cecropis semirufa*

Our only sightings were from the grasslands and savannas of QENP.

Mosque Swallow*Cecropis senegalensis*

This large swallow was seen at scattered localities throughout the tour.

Red-rumped Swallow*Cecropis daurica*

We encountered three birds in the Ruhizha area. The black undertail coverts which make the vent appear “square” is distinctive.

Cettia Bush Warblers & Allies Cettidae**Neumann's (Short-tailed) Warbler ****Hemitesia neumanni*

We enjoyed really good views of this species at Buhoma after chasing a calling pair for quite a while. Initially when the bird was first heard we were unfortunately on the receiving end of a local guide losing his marbles!

Grauer's Warbler **Graueria vittata*

We had very good views of this species at Ruhija. Their quiet purring call is very similar to that of Scaly-throated Honeyguide. Always sticking to dense tangles we watched for many minutes as a single bird crept about very close to where we were positioned.

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher*Erythrocerus mccallii*

We had very good views of this species along the Roayal Mile in Budongo Forest. In East Africa, only found in Budongo Forest.

Green Hylia*Hylia prasina*

Seen along the Royal Mile, Busingiro and Bwindi NP. Its distinctive “HEE-lia!” call was frequently heard in forest patches throughout the country.

Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae**Red-faced Woodland Warbler ****Phylloscopus laetus*

We enjoyed a number of good sightings of this species at Buhoma and Ruhija.

Reed Warblers & Allies**Greater Swamp Warbler***Acrocephalus rufescens*

Heard and seen in a papyrus reed bed in Lake Mburo NP.

African Reed Warbler*Acrocephalus baeticatus*

Seen well at Mabamba Swamp and again at Lake Mburo NP.

Dark-capped Yellow Warbler*Chloropeta natalensis*

A single bird was observed in rank grass near the start of the Royal Mile.

Mountain Yellow Warbler*Chloropeta similis*

Sighted on two occasions at Ruhija where initially located on call.

Grassbirds & Allies

Grauer's Swamp Warbler **Bradypterus graueri*

A single bird was very well seen during a very eventful and highly enjoyable afternoon at Mubwindi Swamp.

White-winged Swamp Warbler*Bradypterus carpalis*

A papyrus specialist, we heard this species on numerous occasions however as usual it was very difficult to lure out in the open for a view.

Cisticolas & Allies**Red-faced Cisticola***Cisticola erythropus*

Heard quite frequently (the "squeezey toy") call is quite distinctive; we had our best views of it near the Royal Mile.

Singing Cisticola*Cisticola cantans*

We had a good view of a single bird in Murchison Falls NP.

Whistling Cisticola*Cisticola lateralis*

A single bird was seen and heard near the Royal Mile.

Trilling Cisticola*Cisticola woosnami*

Often heard in dryer woodland areas, we had good views of this species at Lake Mburo NP and QENP.

Chubb's Cisticola*Cisticola chubbi*

Common around Bwindi Impenetrable NP and initially found at Sebitole, Kibale NP. A noisy inhabitant of high lighting areas in Uganda.

Rattling Cisticola*Cisticola cheniana*

Good numbers were seen on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Winding Cisticola*Cisticola galactotes*

A wetland associated species, we saw this one at Mabamba Swamp and on the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

NOTE: Some authorities split this widespread African species into five species. Winding Cisticola C. marginatus, which occurs in East, Central and West Africa. The other four species are Coastal Cisticola C. haematocephalus that occurs in coastal East Africa, Luapula Cisticola C. luapula occurring largely in Zambia, Rufous-winged Cisticola C. galactotes of coastal Southern Africa and Ethiopian Cisticola C. lugubris endemic to Ethiopia. IOC ratifies these (however Clements does not as yet recognise these splits).

Carruthers's Cisticola*Cisticola carruthersi*

A pair of birds was seen in Mubwindi Swamp. Although normally found in papyrus habitat, this species is found in the high lying Mubwindi Swamp which is devoid of papyrus.

Croaking Cisticola*Cisticola natalensis*

A large cisticola, we encountered it at a number of savanna sites beginning with Murchison Falls NP.

Short-winged (Siffling) Cisticola*Cisticola brachypterus*

We saw this species in Murchison Falls NP where it was seen typically perched up high giving its faint call.

Long-tailed (Tabora) Cisticola*Cisticola angusticaudus*

We had a good view of single birds on two occasions in Lake Mburo NP. This species is very range restricted in Uganda, and is only found in the extreme south of the country in Lake Mburo NP.

Zitting (Fan-tailed) Cisticola*Cisticola juncidis*

We first encountered this species over grassland in Murchison Falls NP. The most widespread cisticola in the world.

Tawny-flanked Prinia*Prinia subflava*

Seen at scattered sites throughout the country.

Black-faced (Banded) Prinia*Prinia melanops*

A rather noisy and gregarious species which we found in Bwindi Impenetrable NP on at least four occasions.

NOTE: The Ugandan form is sometimes split off as Black-faced Prinia P. melanops.

- White-chinned Prinia** *Schistolais leucopogon*
First seen at Sebitole, Kibale NP and then later in Bwindi NP.
- Red-winged Warbler** *Heliolais erythropterus*
A pair was seen well in Murchison Falls NP after they were heard calling.
- Ruwenzori (Collared) Apalis *** *Apalis ruwenzorii*
We had good views of this species at Ruhija.
NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped into Black-collared Apalis A. pulchra.
- Red-winged Grey Warbler** *Drymocichla incana*
A smart good looking species, we saw three birds in Murchison Falls NP. Quite range restricted in Uganda.
- Buff-bellied Warbler** *Phyllolais pulchella*
Seen in Lake Mburo NP. Usually seen foraging in *Acacia* trees.
- Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida*
Four birds were encountered in Murchison Falls NP.
NOTE: This widespread polytypic African species is likely to be split into two or more species, with the central Ugandan form becoming Green-tailed Apalis A. caniceps. IOC and Clements do not as yet recognise this split.
- Lowland Masked Apalis** *Apalis binotata*
Two birds were seen at Sebitole in Kibale Forest. This species is strangely range restricted in Uganda.
- Mountain Masked Apalis *** *Apalis personata*
This species was seen on a number of occasions in Bwindi Impenetrable NP especially in the higher areas of Ruhizha.
- Black-throated Apalis** *Apalis jacksoni*
Good numbers were seen at Buhoma and Ruhizha. A common forest edge species in Uganda.
- Black-capped Apalis** *Apalis nigriceps*
A highly localised species in Uganda where it is found in Budongo Forest. We enjoyed three birds in the forest canopy along the Royal Mile.
- Chestnut-throated Apalis** *Apalis porphyrolaema*
We recorded a few birds at Ruhija. Its “ringing-telephone” call was a regular forest sound in the montane forests around Ruhija.
- Buff-throated Apalis** *Apalis rufogularis*
Seen at Buhoma, Kibale and Budongo forests. A fairly common forest apalis in Uganda.
- Grey Apalis** *Apalis cinerea*
Two birds were seen well at Buhoma.
- Grey-capped Warbler** *Eminia lepida*
We had an excellent view of this smart species in QENP. More often heard than seen.
- Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata*
Quite a widespread bird in Uganda, we first recorded it at Murchison Falls NP.
- Olive-green Camaroptera** *Camaroptera chloronota*
This skulky species was seen at Buhoma and Kibale Forest.
- Black-faced Rufous Warbler** *Bathmocercus rufus*
This smart bird was well seen at Buhoma. Its “reversing truck” call was heard fairly frequently in Bwindi NP.
- Green-backed Eremomela** *Eremomela canescens*
A good looking species of broad-leaved woodland, we enjoyed good looks in Murchison Falls NP.
- Rufous-crowned Eremomela** *Eremomela badiceps*
Excellent views were had of birds at Busingiro and the Royal Mile.

Family Uncertain Insertae Sedis

- Moustached Grass Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis*

We had very good views of this species in rank grassland in QENP, near Masindi and in Murchison Falls NP.

Yellow Longbill *Macrosphenus flavicans*

We had very good views of this species at Kaniyo Pabidi.

Grey Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor*

This skulky bird was seen in Mabira Forest. The longbills always have the habit of sticking to thick vines and creepers.

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*

Seen well on numerous occasions in Murchison Falls NP often associating with mixed feeding flocks.

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii*

This pale-faced bird was encountered in Lake Mburo NP.

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens*

This species was seen well mobbing a snake at Sebitole, Kibale NP.

Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti*

We found a single bird while birding along the Royal Mile that was only seen by some. In East Africa, this species is restricted to Budongo and Semliki Forests.

White-browed Crombec *Sylvietta leucophrys*

Very nice views were had of a few birds at Buhoma.

Babblers Timaliidae

Scaly-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis albipectus*

This skulky species was extremely well seen in both Kibale and Bwindi NP, has the habit of feeding almost exclusively on the ground.

Puvel's Illadopsis *Illadopsis puveli*

We enjoyed great views of this species. In East Africa this species is restricted to the Kaniyo Pabidi section of Budongo Forest.

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens*

This species was located directly after our search for the previous species in Kaniyo Pabidi.

Mountain Illadopsis *Illadopsis pyrrhoptera*

A few groups were well seen in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Ruwenzori Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe atriceps*

Great views were had of a number of birds at Ruhija. Especially memorable views were enjoyed on a trail near our accommodation

NOTE: This is a recent split from African Hill Babbler I. abyssinica, and occurs in the Albertine Rift and Nigeria/Cameroon. Clements do not recognize this split.

Black-lored Babbler *Turdoides sharpei*

Strangely this species was only seen once in QENP.

Brown Babbler *Turdoides plebejus*

This species was seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii*

A fair number of birds were seen in Lake Mburo and QENP.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis*

We saw this species in a variety of woodland and forest environs throughout the tour.

Sugarbirds & Allies Promeropidae

Grey-chested Babbler (Illadopsis) *Kakamega poliothorax*

This species is notoriously tough to see and often only its liquid song is heard. We were extremely fortunate to locate a pair of birds, which seemed to be nesting along one of the forest trails in Bwindi NP.

Hyliotas Hyliotidae

Yellow-bellied Hyliota

Hyliota flavigaster

While birding at Luwero Swamp en route to Masindi we came across a pair of these striking birds moving together with a mixed feeding flock.

Starlings Sturnidae

Wattled Starling

Creatophora cinerea

A few birds were seen in QENP. All birds were in non-breeding dress however.

Purple-headed Starling

Lamprotornis purpureiceps

This good looking species was exceptionally well seen in good afternoon light while birding the Sebitole section of Kibale NP.

Greater Blue-eared Starling

Lamprotornis chalybaeus

Recorded at Lake Mburo NP. This species is more or less restricted to the south of Uganda.

Lesser Blue-eared Starling

Lamprotornis chloropterus

This species is common in the northern savannas of Uganda, and we saw large numbers in Murchison Falls NP and around Masindi.

NOTE: This species complex is widely treated as two distinct species, the nominate group which we recorded in Uganda, remains as Lesser Blue-eared Starling and the southern broad-leafed woodland form becomes Miombo Blue-eared Starling L. elisabeth. IOC recognises this split (but Clements does not).

Splendid Starling

Lamprotornis splendidus

Another stunning starling, it was seen towards Mabamba Swamp and around Jinja and Entebbe.

Purple Starling

Lamprotornis purpureus

Another striking species although it has a curiously flat shaped head! We found a large group in attendance of a fruiting fig tree near Masindi.

Rüppell's Starling

Lamprotornis purpuroptera

Probably the most common starling in Uganda, we recorded it fairly regularly throughout the tour.

Violet-backed (Plum-coloured) Starling

Cinnyricinclus leucogaster

An exquisite bird, which was seen well in Murchison falls NP. The males are an exceptional colour when seen in good light.

Slender-billed Starling

Onychognathus tenuirostris

A fairly large, long tailed forest starling, of which we saw a single bird while at Ruhija.

Waller's Starling

Onychognathus walleri

This species was seen at Mubwindi Swamp in decent numbers.

Stuhlmann's Starling

Poeoptera stuhlmanni

We recorded a fair number of this forest starling while at Buhoma.

Narrow-tailed Starling

Poeoptera lugubris

This small, long tailed forest starling was seen at Buhoma.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker

Buphagus africanus

Good numbers were seen on game animals in the large savanna parks (Lake Mburo NP, QENP and Murchison Falls NP). Feeds almost exclusively on ticks present on game.

Thrushes Turdidae

White-tailed Rufous (Ant-) Thrush

Neocossyphus poensis

This species produced great views in Bwindi Forest as we had good ant activity during our time there, and seen earlier but briefly in Kibale NP as well.

Fraser's Rufous Thrush (Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush) *Stizorhina fraseri*

Seen very well in Mabira and Budongo Forest. Its beautiful and distinctive whistle is a common sound in Ugandan forests.

African Thrush *Turdus pelios*

We saw and heard this species quite regularly during the tour. Its sunrise song was a fairly common sound on the tour.

Olive Thrush *Turdus olivaceus*

One was seen at Ruhija.

NOTE: The Ugandan form is sometimes split off as Mountain Thrush, Turdus abyssinicus. IOC and Clements do not as yet accept this split.

Fire-crested Alethe *Alethe diademata*

Heard only along the Royal Mile. This species often follows ant swarms of which we had no activity in the forests where this species occurs.

NOTE: The Ugandan form is sometimes split from the nominate White-tailed Alethe of West Africa, becoming A. castanea.

Red-throated Alethe * *Alethe poliophrys*

We enjoyed lovely views of this species at Buhoma. Good ant activity resulted in us getting crippling views of this smart bird on numerous occasions.

Chats and Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

White-starred Robin *Pogonocichla stellata*

We initially located a single juvenile bird up at Ruhizha with further views of a smart adult down at Mubwindi Swamp.

(Eastern) Forest Robin *Stiphornis xanthogaster*

This shy species was seen by some of the group at Mabira Forest when a bird came in very close but briefly.

NOTE: This widespread tropical genus has been split into four species (which IOC accepts), which are variably distributed from east across to west Africa. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits. Interestingly, a new species, Olive-backed Forest Robin Stiphornis pyrrolaemus has been discovered in Gabon, bringing the Stiphornis genus to a total of five species.

Equatorial Akalat *Sheppardia aequatorialis*

At least six birds were seen at Buhoma, some of which offered excellent views.

White-bellied Robin-Chat *Cossyphicula roberti*

A single was seen at Buhoma. Very similar to the previous species, but differs in having white lores and dark central tails feathers flanked by orange outer tail feathers.

Archer's Ground Robin (Robin-Chat) * *Cossypha archeri*

We enjoyed the most outrageous views of this very tough to see well bird while birding the bamboo zone at Ruhija.

Grey-winged Robin-Chat *Cossypha polioptera*

A beautiful pair of this seldom recorded bird was seen at forest edge just before entering the Buhoma section of Bwindi NP.

Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat *Cossypha cyanocampter*

This is an incredible songster and a real entertainer although usually tough to see well. Our sightings came from the Royal Mile and then again at Mabira Forest.

White-browed (Heuglin's) Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini*

Frequently heard, our best views were in QENP, where this species is very common.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*

We recorded this species at Kibale NP and in QENP.

Spotted Palm (Morning-) Thrush *Cichladusa guttata*

Seen at Murchison Falls NP, where we got great views of this accomplished songster.

Brown-backed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas hartlaubi*

Four birds provided very good views in farm bush outside the Royal Mile.

White-browed (Red-backed) Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys*

A widespread bird of the African bushveld, we recorded it at Lake Mburo NP.

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

Birds were encountered at Mabamba Swamp and in the Ruhizha area.

NOTE: Many authorities (including Clements and IOC) recognise the split of African S. torquatus and Common S. rubicola Stonechats (the latter a Palaearctic species), which is not followed by all authorities. Further splitting may occur in both groups including the highland Ethiopian form S. t. albofasciata that may become Ethiopian Stonechat.

Sooty Chat *Myrmecocichla nigra*

This species was seen regularly in savanna areas throughout the country.

Mocking Cliff Chat *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

Well seen on the Butiaba Escarpment.

Fraser's Forest Flycatcher *Fraseria ocreata*

This species was only heard along the Royal Mile. In East Africa, this species is restricted to western Ugandan rainforests.

White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher *Dioptrornis fischeri*

Encountered frequently in Bwindi Impenetrable NP. Interestingly, the birds of the race *toruensis* which occurs here lacks a white eye-ring!

Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher * *Melaenornis ardesiacus*

A few members of the group managed to get onto this species at Buhoma. This bird proved to be frustrating at its regular site.

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides*

Seen quite widely in Uganda through Masindi and QENP.

Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina*

In Uganda restricted to the southern savannas, which are only found in Lake Mburo NP. Reasonably common here, it was well seen on a few occasions.

Pale Flycatcher *Bradornis pallidus*

Seen in Murchison Falls NP and the Masindi woodlands.

Silverbird *Empidornis semipartitus*

This beautiful dry country species was well seen at Murchison Falls NP.

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens*

A pair were sighted along the Royal Mile and again in Lake Mburo NP.

Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica*

A papyrus swamp specialist (usually!), it was easiest to see at Mweya Lodge, QENP, where the birds are ridiculously tame! Other sightings came from Mabamba Swamp and Lake Mburo NP.

Cassin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini*

A stream associated flycatcher, we saw this species over a stream at Kibale NP.

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta*

A forest edge species, encountered it in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata*

This species was well seen at Buhoma and in Kibale NP.

Sooty Flycatcher *Muscicapa infusata*

Seen at Buhoma, the Royal Mile and Busingiro. Often perches high in the forest on open exposed dead limbs.

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus griseigularis*

We saw this species well at Buhoma and Mabira Forest, with our first looks along the Royal Mile being rather fleeting.

Sunbirds Nectariniidae

Grey-headed Sunbird

Deleornis axillaries

A curious species which resembles a warbler with its straight bill and feeding behaviour. We enjoyed good close views on a number of occasions in Bwindi NP and Mabira Forest.

Western Violet-backed Sunbird

Anthreptes longuemarei

While birding the broad-leaved woodland in Murchison Falls NP we came across a single female in a mixed feeding flock.

Little Green Sunbird

Anthreptes seimundi

A drab species, with single birds seen along the Royal Mile and Busingiro.

Grey-chinned (Green) Sunbird

Anthreptes rectirostris

First seen at the entrance to Murchison Falls NP where a pair were busy nest building, this forest edge species was recorded at a number of sites thereafter.

NOTE: This species is sometimes split into two forms, the eastern (including Ugandan) Grey-chinned Sunbird A. tephrolaemus and the nominate western Yellow-chinned Sunbird. This is not accepted by the IOC.

Collared Sunbird

Hedydipna collaris

Commonly recorded at forest patches throughout the country.

Green-headed Sunbird

Cyanomitra verticalis

Birds were encountered at a number of sites, beginning with a single at Kibale NP. A good looking secondary growth and forest edge species.

Blue-headed Sunbird *

Cyanomitra alinae

An Albertine Rift endemic, of which a male was seen very well in the scope at Buhoma.

(Western) Olive Sunbird

Cyanomitra olivacea

First seen along the Royal Mile, this species was then seen (and more often heard) at a number of forest sites thereafter.

NOTE: The Olive Sunbird species complex was split into two full species by IOC and Clements and some other authorities, namely the nominate Eastern Olive Sunbird C. olivacea and the form which we recorded in Uganda, Western Olive Sunbird. There has been a review of this split and several authorities are in doubt of the validity, resulting in IOC lumping these forms into a single species Olive Sunbird C. olivacea.

Green-throated Sunbird

Chalcomitra rubescens

A single bird was sighted at Entebbe on the first day of the tour.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird

Chalcomitra senegalensis

A stunner, we saw this species first near Masindi, however our most memorable views were from Lake Mburo NP.

Purple-breasted Sunbird*

Nectarinia purpureiventris

This rather uncommon Endemic, was seen in the Ruhizha area at a flowering tree.

Bronzy Sunbird

Nectarinia kilimensis

Very common in highland areas, where we saw multiple birds in Bwindi NP.

Olive-bellied Sunbird

Cinnyris chloropygius

We encountered this forest edge species at Kibale and Murchison Falls NP's.

Tiny Sunbird

Cinnyris minullus

Superb views were enjoyed of this uncommon species at close range in the Ruhizha area.

Northern Double-collared Sunbird

Cinnyris reichenowi

Great views were had of this species at Buhoma and Ruhizha, generally found at higher altitudes than the previous species.

Regal Sunbird *

Cinnyris regius

What a stunning bird! This Albertine Rift endemic was seen excellently at Ruhija.

Beautiful Sunbird

Cinnyris pulchella

Also an amazing bird, we got great views at Murchison Falls NP.

- Marico Sunbird** *Cinnyris mariquensis*
We encountered this lovely species at Lake Mburo NP and around Masindi.
- Red-chested Sunbird** *Cinnyris erythrocerus*
Often encountered in association with wetlands, it was particularly common in the gardens at Mweya Lodge.
- Purple-banded Sunbird** *Cinnyris bifasciatus*
A single was seen at Lake Mburo NP.
- Superb Sunbird** *Cinnyris superbus*
A single bird was well seen in the scope in Kibale Forest, with our first views coming from near Mabamba Swamp.
- Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venustus*
Another beautiful sunbird, seen in farm bush outside the Royal Mile.
- Copper Sunbird** *Cinnyris cupreus*
Seen in QENP, and also around Masindi.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

- White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser*
We found a single bird at its nesting area on the north bank of the Nile River in Murchison Falls NP.
- Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser superciliosus*
A smart bird, it was well seen in Murchison Falls NP and on the Butiaba Escarpment.
- Kenya (Rufous) Sparrow** *Passer rufocinctus*
This species was seen on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.
NOTE: Some authorities including Clements split this African sparrow into five species. Shelley's Rufous Sparrow P. shelleyi that we observed occurs largely in Ethiopia, Great Sparrow P. motitensis occurs in Southern Africa, Kenya Rufous Sparrow P. rufocinctus occurs in East Africa, Kordofan Rufous Sparrow P. cordofanicus occurs in Sudan and Socotra Sparrow is endemic to Socotra. IOC however, only accepts Great, Kenya and Socotra Sparrows as full species, and according to their classification the birds we recorded (Shelley's Rufous Sparrow) are treated as Kenya Sparrow.
- Northern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer griseus*
Very common, this species was seen almost daily.

Weavers, Widowbirds Ploceidae

- Speckle-fronted Weaver** *Sporopipes frontalis*
We were treated to very good views of this species on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.
- Thick-billed (Grosbeak) Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons*
Maximum numbers were in Kibale NP, where a few big flocks were seen. Has a monster bill!
- Baglafaecht Weaver** *Ploceus baglafaecht*
A fairly common weaver of moister environs, it was especially common on the outskirts of Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
- Slender-billed Weaver** *Ploceus pelzelni*
Our best views of this species were of the tame birds on dinner tables at Mweya Lodge.
- Little Weaver** *Ploceus luteolus*
This tiny little weaver was seen in singles on a few days in Murchison Falls NP and at Luwero Swamp.
- Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*
Often seen foraging in undergrowth, this species was seen at Luwero Swamp and near Bwindi NP.
- Black-necked Weaver** *Ploceus nigricollis*
A forest edge inhabitant, we saw this species at numerous sites countrywide. The smart looking males and females are distinctly different!
- Strange Weaver *** *Ploceus alienus*

This Albertine Rift endemic that was seen well at Ruhija.

Black-billed Weaver *Ploceus melanogaster*

A really good looking and sought after species that was excellently seen at Buhoma.

African (Holub's) Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops*

This large species was seen near Bwindi NP.

Orange Weaver *Ploceus aurantius*

We had good close looks of at least 10 birds at Mabamba Swamp

Northern Brown-throated Weaver *Ploceus castanops*

This species was sighted at Mabamba Swamp.

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

We saw this species foraging in woodland at Lake Mburo NP.

Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus*

This species was seen in woodland near the Butiaba Escarpment.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

Seen quite regularly throughout the tour, birds here belong to the distinctive *bohndorffi* subspecies.

NOTE: This widespread African complex is a candidate for multi-species splitting and the subspecies P. c. bohndorffi which we recorded in Uganda will probably remain within the nominate Village Weaver P. cucullatus group. These splits are not as yet recognized by IOC or Clements.

Vieillot's Black Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus*

We recorded this species regularly throughout the country.

NOTE: The distinctive West African form of this weaver is sometimes split off as Chestnut-and-black Weaver P. castaneofuscus.

Weyns's Weaver *Ploceus weynsi*

This nomadic forest species was seen in Mabira Forest (around 12 seen) however our initial views of this species at Mabamba Swamp, where they were breeding, were simply mind blowing.

Black-headed (Yellow-backed) Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus*

Birds we seen in good numbers at Mabamba Swamp and QENP (birds being particularly tame at Mweya Lodge).

Golden-backed Weaver *Ploceus jacksoni*

A single male in full breeding plumage was sighted at Luwero Swamp.

Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolour*

While birding the rewarding Royal Mile we came across a pair feeding with a mixed flock.

Compact Weaver *Pachyphantus superciliosus*

Seen in QENP and near the Royal Mile. A species usually associated with rank, grassy environs.

Brown-capped Weaver *Ploceus insignis*

A good looking species, with birds seen at Buhoma and up at the Sebitole section of Kibale NP.

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis*

We saw this species at Buhoma, along the Royal Mile and Mabira Forest.

Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus*

A brief view was had of this species at the Royal Mile. More widespread in West Africa this species often stays hidden in dense vines as it forages.

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps*

A bird of bushveld, we recorded it at Lake Mburo NP. Birds here belong to the race *leuconotus*, the males of which have a black face mask which contrasts with the vivid red head and breast.

Cardinal Quelea *Quelea cardinalis*

This smart species was sighted in grassland just outside Murchison Falls NP.

Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythrope*

This species was seen at Murchison Falls NP, with our first sighting coming from near the Royal Mile.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

This species famous for gathering in large flocks of millions of birds strong was seen in grassland just outside Murchison Falls NP. Thirty birds were roughly seen including males in breeding plumage.

Black Bishop *Euplectes gierowii*

Good views were had of this large species in farm bush near the Royal Mile.

Black-winged Red Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*

Recorded in Murchison Falls NP.

Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*

Seen in QENP.

Northern Red (Orange) Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*

This species replaces the previous one in northern grasslands, and was well seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Yellow Bishop (Yellow-rumped Widow) *Euplectes capensis*

Two birds were seen near Buhoma.

Fan-tailed (Red-shouldered) Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris*

Birds were seen in sugarcane near Jinja and near Mabamba Swamp.

Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes macrourus*

A smart euplect, we saw this one around Masindi, and in Murchison Falls NP.

Marsh Widowbird *Euplectes hartlaubi*

We got great views of this species at Luwero Swamp, a localised bird in Uganda.

White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus*

We had great views of four birds including a male in full breeding dress in savanna outside Murchison Falls NP.

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens*

Birds were seen in rank vegetation near Masindi and Ruhizha. The race *concolor* (which we saw) lacks the red collar!

Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

White-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita fusconotus*

First seen along the Royal Mile, it was also seen in Kibale, Bwindi and Mabira forests. Its descending call was heard in a number of forests throughout the tour.

Grey-headed Nigrita *Nigrita canicapillus*

Seen well near Mabamba Swamp, nest building at Kanyo Pabidi, Kibale NP and Mabira Forest.

Grey-headed Oliveback *Nesocharis capistrata*

We had exceptional views of a pair that were nest building at a site near the Royal Mile. This is an uncommon resident in this area.

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba*

A few birds were sighted in Murchison Falls NP.

Dusky Crimsonwing * *Cryptospiza jacksoni*

A stunning Albertine Rift Endemic, a single bird was seen in the bamboo zone up in the Ruhizha area of Bwindi NP.

Red-headed Bluebill *Spermophaga ruficapilla*

We had good views of a male of this species at the Royal Mile.

Brown Twinspot *Clytospiza montei*

This beauty was seen near the Royal Mile where four birds were recorded in total.

Dusky Twinspot *Euschistospiza cinereovinacea*

A single bird was sighted in an open area within forest up at the bamboo zone in the Ruhizha area.

Black-bellied Firefinch *Lagonosticta rara*

We got great views of this species near the Royal Mile.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

A common bird in savanna areas.

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*

This attractive species was seen in Lake Mburo and Murchison Falls NP's.

Fawn-breasted Waxbill *Estrilda paludicola*

Seen well in QENP and at Murro.

NOTE: The Ethiopian near-endemic *E. p. ochrogaster* is sometimes recognized as a distinct species, Abyssinian Waxbill.

Crimson-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda rhodopyga*

This good looking waxbill was sighted as we entered the Mweya Peninsula section of QENP.

Black-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda troglodytes*

Three birds were briefly seen on the north bank of the Nile River in Murchison Falls NP.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

This species was seen at Mabamba Swamp and Murro.

Black-crowned Waxbill *Estrilda nonnula*

This forest edge species was seen at Buhoma and Kibale Forests.

Black-headed Waxbill *Estrilda atricapilla*

Good numbers were sighted daily at road verges while at Ruhija.

NOTE: The birds we saw belong the *graueri* race restricted to east-central Africa, and sometimes known as *Kandt's Waxbill*.

African Quail-Finch *Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*

Four birds were seen in Murchison Falls NP. Difficult to see on the ground.

Black-chinned Quail-Finch *Ortygospiza gabonensis*

We were simply blown away by a superb sighting of a small group of six birds that were attending a small waterhole in the otherwise rather dry Ishasha section of QENP.

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata*

This common species was seen quite regularly throughout the tour.

Black-and-white Mannikin *Lonchura bicolor*

We found this species near the Royal Mile and QENP.

Magpie Mannikin *Lonchura fringilloides*

A large species of manikin and also a rather uncommon and seldom recorded species. We enjoyed excellent views of a single bird just outside the Royal Mile.

Indigobirds, Whydahs Viduidae

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata*

This species parasitizes the Red-billed Firefinch and our only sighting came from farm bush outside the Royal Mile.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

This small but aggressive bird was seen at scattered sites throughout the tour.

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis*

We recorded this species in Bwindi Impenetrable NP, right outside our accommodations.

Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara*

We enjoyed lovely views of a pair of this forest stream associated species in Kibale NP.

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

Commonly sighted throughout the country.

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*

It was seen at a few scattered grassland sites throughout the tour.

African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus*

Our best views were in QENP and Murchison Falls NP. Often the “default” pipit across many areas in Africa.

NOTE: African pipit taxonomy is in rather a disarray and much further research is required in the phylogeny of this grouping. Several forms which are considered subspecies are likely to become full species in their own rights and several new forms are surely still to be described. The identification of two new species of pipits from an urban hockey field in Kimberley, South Africa, provides an excellent illustration regarding how little is known about African pipits and how little attention has been paid to them.

Plain-backed Pipit

Anthus leucophrys

Seen well in Lake Mburo and Queen Elizabeth NP's

NOTE: A. l. goodsoni of central and SW Kenya may be split off from the nominate group A. leucophrys. The Ugandan races we recorded would probably remain within the nominate complex. IOC and Clements do not recognise this split.

Finches Fringillidae

Yellow-crowned Canary

Serinus flavivertex

Two birds were seen near Ruhija, treating us to good looks in the scope.

NOTE: This species complex has been split into two, the nominate southern group would remain as Cape Canary Serinus canicollis and the form which we recorded in Uganda becomes Yellow-crowned Canary S. flavivertex. IOC and Clements both recognize this split.

Western Citril

Crithagra frontalis

Recorded near Ruhizha and initially down at Mubwindi Swamp.

NOTE: This complex is now split into three distinct species, the eastern Southern Citril C. hyposticta, the western Western Citril C. frontalis (which is the form occurring in Uganda) and the nominate African Citril C. citrinelloides. IOC and Clements do recognize these splits.

White-rumped Seed-eater

Crithagra leucopygia

This dry country species was sighted outside Murchison Falls NP when four birds were sighted.

Black-throated Canary

Crithagra atrogularis

A localised bird in Uganda, this canary was seen near Buhoma.

Yellow-fronted Canary

Crithagra mozambica

Seen at scattered sites throughout Uganda. A widespread African species.

Brimstone (Bully) Canary

Crithagra sulphurata

A large canary, it was seen near Buhoma and QENP.

Streaky Seedeater

Crithagra striolata

We got good views of this species at Ruhija.

Thick-billed Seedeater

Crithagra burtoni

Good views were had of this highland species in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

NOTE: The Tanzanian endemic S. b. melanochrous is sometimes split off a Kipengere Seed-eater.

Buntings Emberizidae

Golden-breasted Bunting

Emberiza flaviventris

We recorded this species at a few localities, the first being near Mabamba Swamp with additional views coming from Lake Mburo NP. Not as common in Uganda as it is in southern Africa.

Brown-rumped Bunting

Emberiza affinis

Associated with broad-leaved woodland and always a special bird to find. We had fantastic looks at a calling bird in Murchison Falls NP.

Cabanis's Bunting

Emberiza cabanisi

Singles were seen near the Royal Mile and in Murchison falls NP.

Annotated List of Mammal Species recorded

Taxonomy and nomenclature follows “The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals” by Jonathan

Kingdon, Academic Press, 1997.

Total species recorded: 43

Apes Hominidae

Chimpanzee

Pan troglodytes

These amazing creatures were seen exceptionally well along the Royal Mile and in Kibale NP.!

(Mountain) Gorilla

Gorilla gorilla

Nobody in the group had signed up for Gorilla tracking and for obvious reasons nobody expected to see one. Amazing things do happen from time to time and Tony and I were the incredibly fortunate ones to come face to face with a huge Silverback sitting flat bang in the middle of the trail while descending to Mubwindi Swamp. He even started walking towards us at one point and we eventually had to skirt past him in a wide arc to continue on our intended route down to the swamp. A once in lifetime experience and something special and magical to cherish forever.

Colobid Monkeys Colobidae

Central African Red Colobus

Piliocolobus oustaleti

This leaf feeding species is quite common in Kibale Forest, allowing us a number of good views during our time in the forest. This forest is this species stronghold in East Africa, and despite the supposed large off-take by chimps each year, the population seems to be doing well.

Guereza Colobus

Colobus guereza

A stunning monkey, it was seen at scattered sites in Uganda (from roadsides to forest reserves). The distinctive pied appearance of this species is particularly beautiful.

Cheek-Pouch Monkeys Cercopithecidae

Olive (Anubis) Baboon

Papio anubis

Common in Uganda, with maximum numbers in the Murchison Falls area.

Tantalus Monkey

Cercopithecus tantalus

This species is confined to the northern woodlands in Uganda and is often regarded as a subspecies of the Vervet Monkey. We found a few near Masindi.

Vervet Monkey

Cercopithecus pygerythrus

Widespread in Uganda (as in many other areas of Africa), we saw this species on a number of days on the tour. Is able to live comfortably in suburban or wild situations.

L'Hoest's Monkey

Cercopithecus lhoesti

For the most part a terrestrial species (ascending trees to escape danger or feed), we saw this handsome monkey very well in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Blue (Gentle) Monkey

Cercopithecus mitis stuhlmanni

Seen in Bwindi Impenetrable, Kibale and Budongo forests. Often quite vocal, producing a loud, unmistakable call.

Red-tailed Monkey

Cercopithecus ascanius

This colourful species was seen in Budongo and Mabira Forests.

Flying-Foxes Pteropidae

Straw-coloured Fruit Bat

Eidolon helvum

En route to Masindi we encountered a roost which contained a large number of individuals. Later, we saw huge numbers of fruit bats in Jinja as well.

Large-Winged Bats Megadermatidae

Yellow-winged Bat*Lavia frons*

This smart bat was seen during the day outside Murchison Falls NP.

Hares & Rabbits Leporidae**Uganda Grass-Hare***Poelagus marjorita*

Seen on our night drive in Murchison Falls NP.

Squirrels Sciuridae**Striped Ground Squirrel***Xerus erythropus*

One was seen near to Masindi. Quite a large squirrel.

Boehm's Squirrel*Paraxerus boehmi*

Quite a "cute" squirrel, we encountered this delightful species in Bwindi Impenetrable, Budongo and Kibale forests.

Red-legged Sun Squirrel*Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

We had a very good view of this species while in Kibale Forest and along the Royal Mile.

Rwenzori Sun Squirrel*Heliosciurus ruwenzori*

We had two individuals in Bwindi NP.

Dogs and Allies Canidae**Side-striped Jackal***Canis adustus*

We had a single jackal running down the road in front of the vehicle for quite some time up in the Ruhizha area.

Mongoose Herpestidae**Ichneumon (Egyptian) Mongoose***Herpestes ichneumon*

One was seen as it crossed the road near Lake Mburo NP. A big mongoose, also known as Large Grey Mongoose further south.

Dwarf Mongoose*Helogale parvula*

An appropriately named mongoose, these delightful creatures were seen at Lake Mburo NP.

Banded Mongoose*Mungos mungo*

This social mongoose was seen in Lake Mburo and QENP.

Hyaenas Hyaenidae**Spotted Hyaena***Crocuta crocuta*

One of these disposal agents of the African bush (and accomplished hunters in some areas too) was seen in QENP.

Cats Felidae**Serval***Felis serval*

Just as we were leaving Lake Mburo NP we had an amazing sighting as one of these rather infrequently seen cats leaped across the road after an intended victim, on crossing it stood for just a little while before making its way further into the long grass.

Hyraxes Procavidae**Western Tree Hyrax***Dendrohyrax dorsalis*

This species is far more often heard than seen and we were exceptionally lucky to find one with its head protruding from a tree where it was sleeping.

Elephants Elephantidae

African Elephant

Loxodonta africana

The world's largest land animal was seen in good numbers in QENP and Murchison Falls NP, our boat cruise allowing us detailed views of animals along the near banks.

Horses Equidae

Common (Burchell's) Zebra

Equus quagga

This species was seen at Lake Mburo. In Uganda, this species is only found in Lake Mburo NP, which represents the only area of "southern" savanna in this equatorial country.

Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae

Hippopotamus

Hippopotamus amphibius

These huge, semi-aquatic beasts were commonly seen in large water bodies in the large savanna game parks (Lake Mburo, Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls NP).

Pigs Suidae

Giant Forest Hog

Hylochoerus meinertzhageni

An amazing pig (the world's largest!), we were very lucky to see one in the Kasenyi area of Queen Elizabeth NP. Another mammalian highlight!

Common Warthog

Phacochoerus africanus

Recorded quite frequently in savanna parks throughout the country.

Giraffes Giraffidae

Giraffe

Giraffa camelopardalis

This species was well seen on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP. We recorded the distinctive Rothschild's form, which, if some recent taxonomy is to be believed, may be split into a separate species! Based on coat pattern and range differences, as well as genetic work, the one species of giraffe currently accepted may be split into six distinct species!

Bovids & Horned Ungulates Bovidae

African Buffalo

Syncerus caffer

A number of good sightings of this species were had in the large savanna parks, with highlights being the large numbers of animals lazing in the waters of the Kazinga Channel and the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Bushbuck

Tragelaphus scriptus

Seen in QENP, this shy species generally tends to stay in thick bush habitat.

Eland

Taurotragus oryx

A small herd of these massive antelope (the world's largest) was seen at Lake Mburo NP.

Bush (Grey) Duiker

Sylvicapra grimmia

This species is largely nocturnal and we were fortunate to get good views of one in Lake Mburo NP during an afternoon drive.

Black-fronted Duiker

Cephalophus nigrifrons

This species was seen in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Rwenzori Red Duiker

Cephalophus rubidus

We found two of these very shy antelope in Kibale NP where they were only seen briefly.

Note: The name duiker is derived from Afrikaans, and means "diver", a reference to these antelopes habit of dashing and diving into thick cover when disturbed.

Oribi

Ourebia ourebi

Large numbers of this species were seen on the north bank of the Nile.

Uganda Kob

Kobus kob thomasi

We recorded this species in QENP and Murchison Falls NP. This water dependant species is very handsome, and we were treated to excellent close up views as they stood on their leks.

Defassa Waterbuck

Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa

The larger cousin of the previous species, we saw it in good numbers in the large, savanna reserves we visited.

Impala

Aepyceros melampus

In Uganda, this species is restricted to the “southern” savannas, and as such was only seen in Lake Mburo NP. These impala here are much longer horned than animals in southern Africa.

Topi

Damaliscus lunatus

We recorded this species in Lake Mburo NP and in the Ishasha section of QENP. Incidentally, this is one of Africa’s swiftest antelope.

Kongoni (Jackson's Hartebeest)

Alcelaphus buselaphus

A few were seen on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Photo credits: Shoebill, Angola Swallow, Weyns’s Weaver, Long-toed Lapwing, Red-chested Sunbird and Blue-spotted Wood Dove all by Keith Valentine

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